25th August 1926]

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Madras Village Officers' Restoration Act became law on the 6th July 1926. The action taken to divide villages grouped and to restore abolished offices will be published in due course.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"Sir, the answer is 'the action taken will be published in due course'. May I know whether action will be taken by the end of this official year?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"We hope so, Sir. But as the hon. Member is aware, the Act provides several periods of notice and appeal and so we cannot say it will be completed before the end of the year. We will do it as soon as possible."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—"Did the Government issue any order with reference to monigars and assistant karnams who were thrown out of employment by the regrouping? There seems to be some doubt in the minds of the Collectors as to whether they should be restored or not. I wish to know whether the matter was brought to the notice of the Government and whether they have issued orders with reference to monigars and assistant karnams?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"I should like to have notice."

Village officers' power of making endorsements on darkhast petitions.

* 2278 *Q.*—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have considered the question of withdrawing the power of making endorsements from the village officials, viz., monigars and karnams, on darkhast petitions with reference to several resolutions passed and submitted to the Government in several districts by the depressed classes; and

(*b*) if not, why not?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Government do not think that reports from the village officers in darkhast cases can be dispensed with.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"With reference to clause (*b*) may I know whether there is any harm in asking for particulars only from the village officials as far as darkhast petitions are concerned?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Order, order. That is a question asking for no information."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"Are the Government aware that village officers do not generally recommend the grant of darkhast lands unless they are paid something?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"That question is out of order."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"May I know if there is any harm in taking away the power of making endorsements on darkhast petitions by village officers since there are other officials above them?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"The village officer is in the best position to give the necessary information on the matter."